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Museums & Cultural Affairs

The City of El Paso Public Arts Committee (PAC) Tuesday, August 9, 2011, 3:30 PM City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 3:40 pm.
2. **Roll Call: Members Present:** Jesus Alvarado, Rida Asfahani, R. Katherine Brennand, Ken Gorski, Marina Monsisvais, Ray Parish, Jane Thomas.
Members Absent: Martina Lorey, Floyd Johnson, Elizabeth Thurmond.
Others Present: Alejandra Carrillo, Misty Castaneda, Pat Dalbin.
3. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **Approval of Minutes.** Chair asked for approval of the Minutes for last meeting on June 14th, 2011. Ken Gorski motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Rida Asfahani seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.
5. **Discussion and action to Site Artwork on City Traffic Circles Citywide and Artist Selection Process.** Pat Dalbin discussed the construction of new traffic circles Citywide that were a good opportunity for placement of public art. Pat Dalbin mentioned citizens are requesting artwork in their area and suggested getting local artists to submit qualifications through a call for qualifications. The budget for art in traffic circles would range from \$10,000 to \$50,000. The group discussed which traffic circles would be selected and it was decided that one per district where public facing is more prominent. Pat Dalbin mentioned that only large traffic circles would be selected from 40 to 60 feet in diameter. Ken Gorski made a motion to approve. Rida Asfahani seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.
6. **Discussion and Action to Select an Artist to be part of the Design Team for the Downtown Arts and Entertainment Pedestrian Walkway and Artist Selection Process.** Pat Dalbin gave a brief explanation of the project and said the NEA granted \$25,000 for design of the walkway between City Hall and the Civic Center. City will match the project with \$200,000 to select an established local artist to create a public art project. Pat proposed to select up to three local artists to participate in design charrette and if interested have them compete by submitting a proposal for the public art piece. Jane Thomas made a motion to approve. Ken Gorski seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.
7. **Pat Dalbin requested to add Lars Stanley in the Bataan Railway discussion, Marina Monsisvais motioned, Ray Parish seconded) Discussion and Action on the Conceptual Designs Submitted by Artists Tom Orr, Bruce Taylor, Leticia Huerta, Lars Stanley and Art Garcia:** Pat Dalbin explained Tom Orr and Francis Bagley's concept; there was general discussion about concept. Pat Dalbin moved on to Bruce Taylor's concept; an abstract design using scrap and recycled material from his studio and found material in El Paso. General discussion about concept. Pat Dalbin continued on with Leticia Huerta. Her concept is to plasma-cut steel with an alligator theme in the design. Katherine Brennand asked if you will be able to see through it. Pat Dalbin said yes. General Discussion about design. Pat Dalbin went on with Art Garcia. His concept is a green steel metal angled and cut in certain ways to show facial profiles. General discussion about concept. Pat Dalbin went on with Lars Stanley. Third and fourth options were presented. Option 3 is flat metal bars aligned to make a mountain pattern. Option 4 is cat-tail steel over original chain link. Ray Parish mentioned if existing chain-link fence would be left, it would not be appealing. General discussion and Lars was joined in on a conference call for clarification of option 3 and option 4. Lars Stanley said he needed to investigate El Paso's city code to determine if removing the existing chain-link fence was feasible. He said he will work out a design using design concepts from both 3rd and 4th option for PAC's further review. Ken Gorski said there needs to be a way to tie both options together if we choose both of them. Marina Monsisvais motioned to approve; Ray Parish seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and Action on a call to Area Artists for the Fire Station #315 (correction to 513) project located on Gateway Blvd E and Revere Street. Pat Dalbin explained location will be between Reynolds and Chelsea. An Architect has been selected for the project and will be included in the Artist Selection Panel to select the artist to integrate artwork within the project. The total art budget is \$70,000. Pat Dalbin wants to put out a call to artists residing within 300 mile radius of El Paso. Marina Monsisvais made a motion to put out a call to artists residing within a 300 mile radius in El Paso, to include the existing local public art pool. Ken Gorski seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion on the Maintenance and Conservation report for Los Lagartos, by Luis Jimenez, Jr. Pat Dalbin discussed that the report looked favorable in the restoration of the sculpture to keep it at its current location. Pat Dalbin said MCAD spoke with the Estate of Luis Jimenez, Jr. and Estate requires us not to listen to outside influences. MCAD will listen to the estate and the recommendations to have it maintained in order to prolong the artwork's life. Ken Gorski asked what the cost to restore it would be. Pat Dalbin told him we are in the process of getting ahold of conservatories and working with the estate; Need to conduct solar studies of the park to determine areas with less sun and UV rays. Katherine Brennand discussed that everyone wants the piece to maintain its integrity and remain in the park.
Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm. Next meeting scheduled for September 13th, 2011.

Approved for content by:
Patricia Dalbin, Public Art Program Coordinator

Respectfully submitted by:
Misty Castaneda, Administrative Assistant